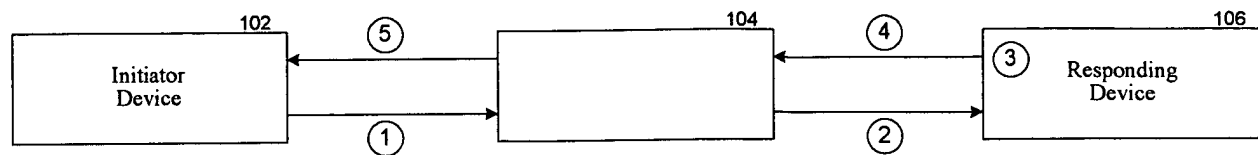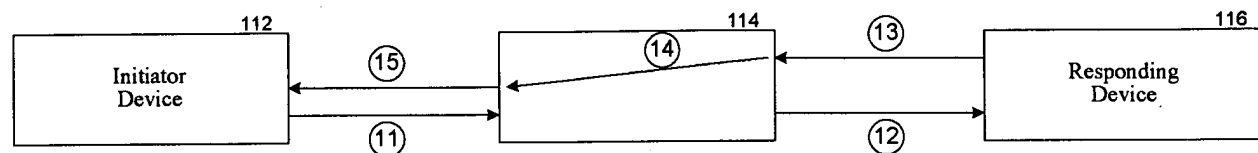## REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-31, and 33 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 11, 13, 16-20, 30, 31, and 33.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure under MPEP § 608.01(b). Applicant has amended the abstract to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 11, 13-20, 30, 31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 10, 11, 13, 16-20, 30, 31, and 33 to draw a more clear distinction between a "first communications device" and a "second communications device."

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 13-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Haartsen. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant's technology detects an error in transmission of a response send from a responding device to an initiating or requesting device. When the error is detected in the response, the requesting device, rather than the responding device, is notified. Haartsen, in contrast, describes that when a responding device detects an error in a request, it notifies the requesting device. Thus, Haartsen describes a conventional technique of notifying the transmitting device when an error is detected in a transmission send by the transmitting device. Applicant's claims are, in contrast, directed to notifying the initiating device, rather than the transmitting device, when an error is detected in a transmission. Applicant has prepared the following figures to illustrate differences between Haartsen and the claimed invention.

Haartsen

Applicant

Haartsen describes a method for error detection and correction when transmitting data packets over a network in which the error is detected by a destination device. For example, an initiator device 102 may transmit a request for data to a responding device 106 through a switch 104 (steps 1), as shown in the Haartsen figure. The switch 104 simply forwards the request to the responding device 106 (step 2). The responding device 106 can "identify whether the packet has been correctly received" (step 3) and can check "the correctness of the packet and either sends an acknowledgement signal (ACK) with the packet number or a non-acknowledgement signal (NAK) in case the packet has been correctly or incorrectly received, respectively" (step 4) to the switch 104. (Haartsen, 3:45-52.) The switch forwards the response to the initiator device 102 (step 5). In other words, Haartsen discloses that the responding device 106 detects the error and transmits an error message to the initiator device 102 that is the same device that sent the transmission that has the error.

Applicant's technology, in contrast, is a method in which "upon detecting at a switch an error during the transmission of the transaction response, terminating the transmission and transmitting an error message to the initiator communications device from the switch that detected the error" as recited by claim 1. For example, an initiator device 112 may transmit a request for data to a responding device 116 through a switch

114 (Steps 11 and 12), as shown in applicant's figure. The responding device 106 transmits the requested data to the switch 114 (step 13). When the switch 114 detects an error in the data (step 4), it transmits (step 115) an error message to the initiator device 112 so that the initiator device 112 can handle the error. The responding device 106 "is not notified of the error."

Haartsen neither teaches nor suggests a method in which a switch detects the error and transmits an error message to the initiator device without notifying the responding device. Instead, Haartsen discloses a method in which the responding device, not the switch, detects an error and transmits the error message to the initiator device that sent the transmission that has the error.

Each of the pending independent claims clearly recites the concept of detecting an error at the switch in a transmission from a responding device and transmitting an error message from the switch to the initiator device without notifying the responding device.
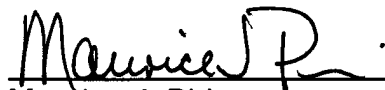
Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a

telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

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